

Home → Collections → South Africa

## South African Ministers Say Sanctions Will Hurt Blacks

September 11, 1985 | By Dan Tracy of The Sentinel Staff

MAITLAND — U.S. economic sanctions against South Africa's white minority government will hurt the black majority more than the ruling class, two black leaders from South Africa said Tuesday.

"Why must my people be made to continue to suffer? Why must the world demand their pound of flesh?" asked John Gogotya, director of Operation Advance Upgrade, a black-activist group based in Vanderbijlpark, South Africa.

Gogotya said blacks will lose jobs and income because President Reagan decided Monday to halt U.S. bank loans and computer technology sales to South Africa. Reagan also banned importation of the Krugerrand, South Africa's gold coin.

In making his announcement, the president said Americans were impatient with the "inadequate" changes being made in South Africa's rigid system of racial separatism.

But Gogotya and the Rev. Isaac Mokoena of Braamfontein, South Africa, said Tuesday that the administration should mind its own business, not that of another country.

"My freedom can't come from America. My freedom can't come from England. My freedom will only come from within," said Mokoena, a bishop who claims 4.5 million black followers.

Gogotya and Mokoena were in Maitland to appear on the Christian's View Point television show with local evangelist the Rev. John Book and the Rev. Carl McIntire, president of the International Council of Christian Churches.

On Friday in Washington, D.C., Gogotya and Mokoena met with Vice President George Bush for about 25 minutes. They said they asked him to lobby Reagan against sanctions. The meeting was confirmed by a White House official.

During a short press conference after the taping in Maitland, Gogotya and Mokoena criticized Anglican Bishop Desmond Tutu, a Nobel Peace Prize winner who supports sanctions against South Africa.

Mokoena, 57, said Tutu does not represent the majority of South Africa's blacks, but only a radical minority bent on revolution.

"The people don't want revolution, but a workable, peaceful way where people will have an exchange of views, a healthy dialogue," said Mokoena, who advocates working with the Pretoria government.

Gogotya, 43, contends the Soviet Union is masterminding the upheaval in South Africa because it wants

Sanctions Against South

to make the nation communist. "The violence bears a label: Made in Russia," he said.

He also charged the American and English-language media are too liberal to cover the troubles in South Africa. Most stories, he said, are distorted to make the government look bad.

But Gogotya and Mokoena said Pretoria officials are wrong to foster segregation.

"Apartheid is racist. It dehumanizes the black man," said Gogotya, who will return to South Africa Thursday with Mokoena.

**Orlando Sentinel**

[Index by Keyword](#) | [Index by Date](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Service](#)

Please note the green-lined linked article text has been applied commercially without any involvement from our newsroom editors, reporters or any other editorial staff.